

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 10, 2015

Agenda Item: 2016-2017 Elk Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges and HD Boundaries

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 90 Minutes

Background

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the Commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing (2015) structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

For the 2016 and 2017 elk-season structure, some of the more significant proposed changes include the establishment of early and/or late shoulder seasons in 44 hunting districts or portions thereof; establishing more liberal general season opportunities in many HDs; establishing two new hunting districts, HD 217 in the North Flints out of a portion of HD 212 and HD 451 out of the eastern portion of HD 391; and eliminating the 900-00 bundled B Licenses valid in a number of hunting districts in Regions 4, 5, and 7 because they are redundant, undersubscribed, underused, and doing so would simplify the regulations. No changes are proposed for the elk archery permit structure.

For other proposed changes see Commission Elk Master List for the December meeting.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Elk season comments were received during scoping and included interest in antlerless opportunities, archery permits, and public/private land management. In addition to public comment at the Dec. 10 Commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m. Jan. 22, 2016. Any final adoptions will take place at the Feb. 11, 2016 Commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2015 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Rationale for individual proposals is included in Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Dec. 10 Commission meeting.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission adopt for public comment the 2016 and 2017 Elk Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP.